

IRAN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Iran

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Iranian Airways: Roman Bogdanovitch
Isaiev

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 19 June 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. Upon the organization of Iranian Airways in 1945, Roman Bogdanovitch Isaiev* subscribed to 200 shares of stock valued at 10,000 rials per share. But when the stipulated 25% down payment for subscribed shares was called for from shareholders, Isaiev hesitated in paying his share. Reza Afshar, now prominent in Iranian Airways, reached an agreement with Isaiev whereby the former bought out the latter's shares. Afshar was anxious to see Isaiev out of Iranian Airways for personal reasons and was anxious to gain a greater control of the management for himself.

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2. Within three or four days after this transaction, Isaiev, generally recognized as a Soviet stooge, came to Afshar and stated that the Soviets were displeased because he, Isaiev, had sold out, and had instructed him to buy back into Iranian Airways. Afshar responded with an offer for the sale of 80 shares, stating that the balance of Isaiev's original 200 subscribed shares had already been sold. This offer was refused by Isaiev, who held out for all or nothing.

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3. Currently, Iranian Airways has been pressing all share subscribers to pay up the agreed-upon 60% of their total commitments, which is now due. As a result, many shareholders, feeling unable to pay, have been selling their partially paid-for shares to any one willing to assume the obligation.

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4. Recurring reports have indicated that Isaiev has been secretly buying up such shares. Ebtahaj, of Iranian Airways, is said to believe that Isaiev has gained control of fifty shares which originally belonged to Ali Wekili, a director of Iranian Airways and Majlis member from Tehran (currently in New York). Wekili, originally the holder of 250 shares, representing the largest individually owned block of stock (TWA and Irantour both own the same amount), is reported to have sold 50 shares to Agar of AIOC, who gave the shares to his son, an AIOC man in Bushire. Agar's son, in turn, reportedly sold the 50 shares to Isaiev. (Note: The above-mentioned Ebtahaj is the same one that is referred to in par. 5.)

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5. Abdul Hassan Ebtahaj, Governor of the Imperial Bank of Iran, is said to be of the opinion that Isaiev now holds 1,000,000 rials worth of Iranian Airways stock which he purchased by secret means, without having any of the share transfer transactions appear on the books. Under Iranian Airways articles of incorporation that sort of thing is apparently possible.

Document No. 9

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

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- 25X1X6 6. The implication of this report is that the Soviets are backing Isaiev in this project, and through him are attempting to counterbalance American TWA's control of the corporation. The present Soviet air line operating into Iran is operating in violation of several clauses in the International Air Agreement, despite Iranian protests. One principal objection voiced by Iran is the lack of reciprocal air rights in Russia for Iranian Airways.
- 25X1X6 *Isaiev, a well known Armenian, is closely connected with the Russian Consulate and is President of the Committee which handles the transfer of Iranian Armenians to Soviet Armenia. He is currently being strongly backed financially by the Soviets in the 15th Majlis elections.
- 25X1X6 In his campaign for the Majlis election, Isaiev is said to have hired the services of Abraham Bakhtiari, an old revolutionary soldier of fortune, to induce Armenians living in Bakhtiari country to vote for Isaiev.
- 25X1X6 Isaiev, about 55 years old, is by profession a geologist and mining engineer. He is married to a Russian woman.

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